

National Youth Conference 2022 Worship Resources

Foundational (Colossians 2: 5-7)

Thursday Morning (July 28) Call to Worship

By Walt Wiltschek, Worship Coordinator

Well, friends—here we are at our final worship service together at the foot of the Colorado mountains. The other day, we asked people in their small groups what they would take home with them from NYC. While it's impossible to capture everything, let me try to give you a flavor of what many of you will be carrying with you besides dirty laundry, tired bodies, and maybe a bag full of Brethren college items and Colorado State merchandise:

New friends and memories of serving and hiking,
Whizzing on scooters and b-ball and biking;
Sunglasses, T-shirts, and new songs to sing--
These are a few of your favorite things.
New calls from Jesus to listen and follow,
Signs that God's promises never are hollow;
Closer connections that live in full hearts,
These are a few of the ways that we start.
Courage to speak up and get in good trouble
Strong new foundations when life feels like rubble;
New motivation to study God's Word,
These are some ways you'll live out what you heard.
Fresh new perspectives and new ways of living,
Positive messages, generous giving;
right-side-up world when we serve from below,
leveling up is the best way to go!
When the storms come, when the rain falls,
When you feel alone...
Just simply remember these NYC things,
And then you'll feel right at home!

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Thursday Morning (July 28) Prayer

By Walt Wiltschek, Worship Coordinator

(Hold up LEGO cross)

During this week, some of you have put together LEGOs in the Moby Lobby with some of the prayers on your hearts. In a similar way, I invite us now to join our hearts and thoughts with one another, interlocked through our common connection in Christ. Please pause with us as we continue in this worship time in a spirit of prayer:

God, as we come before you this morning, we thank you for all the people who came here this week and for what they will take home with them;

We thank you for the solid foundation you give us on which to build meaningful lives.

We thank you for connecting us to one another, surrounding us with love and hope whether we're on the mountaintop or wandering on difficult roads.

Wherever we go, God, fill us with passion and purpose, stirring us to make something beautiful in our world. Amen.

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Thursday Morning (July 28) Scripture Drama

By Walt Wiltschek, Worship Coordinator

John 21: 2-19

Start in near darkness; sound effects of waves crashing, seabird noises, etc.

Narrator (at lectern): It was a beautiful evening in Galilee, and seven of the disciples were gathered near the sea – Simon Peter was there, and so was Thomas, and Nathanael from Cana, and the Zebedee brothers and a few others.

Peter gets up and starts out onto the main floor, winding his way toward the boat.

Peter (leave from corner of stage and go out onto arena floor): I can't just sit here anymore. I'm going fishing.

Other Disciples (also go from corner of stage onto floor): Wait for us! We'll go with you!

Disciples wind their way to the boat and get in, somewhere in front of the stage on the floor. Once in the boat, disciples cast "nets" off the side periodically. Reading pauses while sound affects continue as disciples fish quietly through the night.

Narrator: So the whole group of them went to the shore and got in their boat. They cast off into the sea, and they fished, and they fished, but all night they caught nothing. Not even a nibble.

Begin to simulate "sunrise" in the worship arena, then Jesus steps out stage left. Endeavor to have Jesus backlit.

Narrator: Tired and fish-less, they finally noticed the sun coming up over the eastern horizon. As it illuminated the beach with its warm glow, they saw a figure there. They didn't have a clue who it was. It was Jesus, but they didn't recognize him.

Jesus (cups hands and calls out): Helloooooo there! Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?

Disciples (calling back across distance): NO!

Jesus: Well, try throwing your net off the right side of the boat and see what happens.

Disciple 1 (to others): Did he think we were throwing it off the WRONG side?

Disciple 2: I think he means the literal right side of the boat – you know, starboard.

Disciple 1: What's that going to do? We've been fishing for hours off the left side, the right side, everywhere!

Disciple 3: Well, I say we try it. What do we have to lose?

Disciples make another throw off the starboard side. Youth workers in the vicinity of the 'boat' toss fish in a shower of seafood; disciples begin to scoop them into the net.

Narrator: So they did what he said. They felt a tug. And all of a sudden there were so many fish in their net, they weren't even strong enough to haul it in. And just as suddenly, one of the disciples – John – had a realization.

Try to simulate a "light bulb" moment. Perhaps have Jesus more clearly lit from the front so that he comes into focus.

John: Holy halibut, it's the Master! It's him! It's Jesus!

Perhaps Peter could be wearing a tank or t-shirt and throw a jacket or something over himself. Play a sound effect of a splash as Peter somehow 'jumps in' and makes his way through the congregation to the stage where Jesus is.

Narrator: When Simon Peter heard this and it sunk in – the Master, somehow was here – here! – he threw on his clothes, because he had stripped down for a long night of fishing. And, ever the impulsive one, he dove right into the sea and swam to shore.

Have a fake "fire" on stage with a wood pile or use light to simulate a fire. Perhaps have noises of fire crackling mixed in.

Narrator: The other disciples quickly followed him, rowing the hundred yards or so to get to the shore, pulling a net filled to the brim with fish along with them. When they stepped out of the boat, they found a roaring fire going, crackling on the beach, with fish and bread already cooking on it. And it smelled incredibly good, especially after a long night on the sea.

Jesus: Bring over some of those fine fish you've just caught.

Disciples bring up some fish to Jesus. Perhaps one of the miscellaneous disciples tries to count them all.

Narrator: Simon Peter went over to help the other disciples with the giant load of fish. Someone actually took the time to count the sudden selection of succulent seafood and came up with 153 fish. 153! Big ones! But even with all those fish weighing it down, their net didn't rip.

Jesus: Oh yes – perfect. Now that's a good-looking meal. Breakfast is ready, everyone!

Narrator: The disciples just looked on, wide-eyed. Not one of them dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew. They knew. It was the Master. It was Jesus right there in front of them cooking breakfast on the beach. This now marked the third time that they had seen him since the resurrection.

Jesus (handing out food): Here, have some bread. And have some of this delicious fish. Make sure everybody gets some! Pass it around!

Narrator (after food has been handed out): The disciples ate, basking in the wonder of it all. And when the meal was finished, Jesus started a conversation.

Jesus (to Peter, gesturing out at the fish and boats): Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?

Peter: Well yes, Master. Of course. You know I love you.

Jesus: Then feed my lambs.

Jesus (after a pause): Simon, son of John, do you LOVE me?

Peter: Yes, Master! Absolutely. You *know* that I love you!

Jesus: Then shepherd my sheep.

Jesus (after another pause): Simon, son of John, *do you love me?*

Peter: What else can I say, Master? You KNOW everything there is to know! I love you! You have to know that I love you!

Jesus (nodding): Feed my sheep, Simon Peter. Feed my sheep. Be ready for anything as you come... and follow me. It's time to go out into the world now, Simon Peter, but wherever you go – remember, always remember. Keep following me.

Jesus walks off and Peter, after a few seconds of contemplation, follows him. Lights go down.

Disciples and others distribute Swedish Fish through the congregation. Music (sea shanty) plays in the background.

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Foundational (Colossians 2: 5-7)

Thursday Morning (July 28) Benediction

By Cindy Laprade Lattimer, Worship Coordinator

When we began this week together - you were asked: What is foundational in your life? Your family? Your friends? Your church?

I pray that what we have shared here becomes part of that answer.

Standing on the firm foundation of this sacred community, Go!

And level up - see blessing as an opportunity - see the hurting around you and respond.

I pray that you will - Go!

Shine that Jesus light in you - and have new experiences of the resurrected Christ even as you delve deeply and thoughtfully into the stories of the gospels.

Go, NYC 2022, Go out into the world and be Jesus with skin - serve from below.

Go, travel into the world paying attention to the divine, being constantly astonished,

And telling anyone and everyone you can.

Go - do all this knowing that you are known, you are enough, and you are led - by Christ our foundation.

Go! This foundation is just the starting point - the jumping off place.

Go!